

# Delaware Division of the Arts

Delaware State Arts Council Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2018  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Buena Vista Conference Center, New Castle, DE

**Attending:** Council: Mack Wathen (Chair), Madeleine Bayard, Tina Betz, Donna Blakey, David Fleming, Andrew Horgan, Janis Julian, Michael Kalmbach, John Muller, Cheryle Pringle, Michael Quattrociocchi, Rosetta Roach

Staff: Paul Weagraff, Kristin Pleasanton, Sheila Ross, Roxanne Stanulis, Katie West, Leeann Wallett, Dana Wise, Gwen Henderson

**Absent:** Mary Ann Miller, Heather Morrissey, Dan Shelton

Mr. Wathen called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

## **Chair's Report – Mack Wathen**

**Motion by Janis Julian to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2017 Council meeting – second by Cheryle Pringle - All in favor – None opposed.**

The [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies \(NASAA\)](#) has been promoting the [NASAA Assembly 2018](#), which will be November 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a biennial meeting with staff members, council members, executive directors and others from around the country. I had my opportunity to attend my first one shortly after becoming council chair in Grand Rapids in the fall of 2016. It was a great opportunity to network with peers around the country. There were so many panels that were relevant to what we're doing in Delaware. We're fortunate that this year it's in Baltimore, so travel costs will be relatively lower. If you have an interest in attending, let Paul know.

The next order of business is to approve the Division's representative on the ARTCO board. ARTCO is the board that oversees Arts Stabilization Funds. It's comprised of eight major arts organizations in this state and is primarily for capital purposes. Each of them and the Division of the Arts have two members, typically the executive director who is a non-voting member and a representative of the Arts Council. Tina Betz has been on the board for 2 years and has volunteered to continue. They only meet twice a year and it takes a while to figure out how everything works. Keeping her on provides some continuity.

**Motion by Donna Blakey to approve Tina Betz as the appointed ARTCO Representative for FY2019 – Second by Madeleine Bayard – All in favor – None opposed.**

## **Director's Report – Paul Weagraff**

### **Funding Projections for FY2019**

The Division of the Arts will receive an increase of \$8,000 from the NEA in FY19. This is the results of a \$2 million increase to the NEA.

State funding for FY2019, as of June 20, 2017, appears to be the same as FY2018. Slight adjustments have been made to address employee benefits, but all grant lines remain intact. All funding proposals discussed today will be affected by any changes in the remaining days of the legislative session.

The Delaware Arts Alliance has been aggressive in its advocacy efforts through social media, phone contacts, attendance at town hall meetings, and personal visits to legislators in Dover.

### **Funding coordination with the Controller General's Office**

The Division of the Arts maintains a policy that any arts organization receiving state support from other sources, including Grant-in-Aid, may impact their General Operating Support grant award.

In an effort to better monitor state support of nonprofit arts organizations, the Controller General's office works with the Division to review lists of organizations that have applied for the Division's general operating support as well as Grant-in-Aid. Before finalizing grant awards for General Operating Support, the Division will verify with the Controller General's office their list of grant awardees.

### **New Grant System**

The Division of the Arts will launch a new grants management system in July. The former eGrant.net/PEARL system will be replaced with a cloud-based, integrated system through SmartSimple.com. This fully integrated system will allow grant applicants to apply, report, and track grant award information directly. Notifications to grantees will be generated automatically from SmartSimple. Reviewers will be able to log in, review, comment, and score assigned applications.

### **Summer Teacher Training**

Sheila Ross is working with the Department of Education to host a summer institute for teachers to work on issues of arts instruction and integration in the classroom, as it relates to the visual and performing arts standards and performance indicators, adopted last year by the State Board of Education. Teaching artists and educators from arts organizations are invited to attend as well, to learn how to better serve as resources to the schools.

In addition, Ms. Ross is working with the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and her counterparts in the Mid-Atlantic region to host a Teaching Artists Retreat this summer at the Allenberry Retreat Center in Pennsylvania. The focus of the workshop is to better equip teaching artists to address the changing expectations in schools today.

### **Summer Collaborations**

The Division is collaborating once again with the Division of Libraries and the Division of Parks & Recreation to bring arts programs to 33 libraries in Delaware as part of its Summer Reading Program, and to eight state parks throughout the state. These collaborations bring arts programs to communities not typically reached by traditional arts programming.

### **NEA Grants in Delaware**

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced FY2018 direct grant awards for Delaware organizations:

- Opera Delaware: \$10,000 Art Works grant to support Puccini's "Il Trittico" ("The Triptych") and composer Michael Ching's "Buoso's Ghost."
- Wilmington Renaissance Corporation: \$10,000 Challenge America grant to support the artist-led creation of a community public artwork.
- Delaware Art Museum: \$25,000 Art Works grant to support selected performance and related activities as part of the Bridging Perspectives series.
- Grand Opera House: \$15,000 Art Works grant to support sensory-friendly family performances.

### **FY2018 Opportunity Grants Awarded**

- Artists in Residence: 12 grants; \$19,780
- Arts Access: 19 grants; \$16,490
- Arts Stabilization: 7 grants; \$75,000
- Education Resource: 13 grants; \$134,000

- General Operating Support: 59 grants; \$2,368,000
- Individual Artist Fellowships: 17 grants; \$82,000
- Opportunities - Arts Ed: 26 grants; \$6,940
- Opportunities – Individual Artists: 7 grants; \$4,200
- Partnership: 3 grants; \$21,950
- Project Support: 26 grants; \$187,400
- Special Projects: 8 grants; \$314,700
- **Total: 197 grants; \$3,230,460**

### For your calendar

August 2018	Smart Simple demonstrations for grantees
August 9, 2018	IAF Reception at CAMP Rehoboth, 5:30 p.m.
September 19, 2018	State Arts Council Meeting, The Music School of Delaware, Milford
November 1-3, 2018	NASAA in Baltimore / Writers Retreat in Indian River
December 12, 2018	State Arts Council Meeting, New Castle County (TBD), 10 a.m. to noon

### Funding Allocations/Considerations – see spreadsheets handed out

This year the Division had three days of panel reviews for General Operating Support full applications, Project Support, Education Resource and Arts Stabilization Fund. GOS organizations filing interim reports and StartUp organization applications were reviewed in-house. Council was provided with spreadsheets explaining funding scenarios.

- Total of 61 General Operating Support organizations
  - o 22 Full Applications (reviewed by panel)
  - o 39 Interim Reports (reviewed in-house)
  - o 14 Arts Trust Fund organizations
- Total of 31 Project Support applications
  - o 21 reviewed by panel
  - o 10 reviewed in-house
- Total of 5 Art Stabilization Fund applications
- Total of 16 Education Resource Applications
- Total of 2 Start Up applications

Grants not discussed today: *Artist Residencies* – they come up during the course of the year; *Artist Opportunities* – small grants awarded throughout the course of the year; *Arts Access Grants* – small grants awarded throughout the course of the year.

### Approval Process for All Grant Categories

The Director presented a spreadsheet of funding recommendations, based upon panel scores, their follow-up discussion, and available funds in each category. Council discussion ensued, as it related to that specific grant category. For voting, any application that represented a conflict for a Council member was voted on first, with that council member (or members) recusing him/herself. The remaining slate of applications was then voted on as a whole.

Conflicts of interest in reviewing funding recommendations were confirmed:

- David Fleming – DE Historical Society

- John Muller – Kent County Theatre Guild, Caesar Rodney High School
- Tina Betz – Light Up the Queen Foundation, Cityfest
- Michael Kalmbach – University of Delaware
- Madeleine Bayard – DE Historical Society

#### Project Support (PS) Grants Funding Approval

Mr. Weagraff pointed out that the PS panel recommended not funding applications scoring under 3.0 (represents meeting expectations). Following discussion, voting took place.

**DE Historical Society: David Fleming and Madeleine Bayard abstained - Motion to approve funding recommendations by Tina Betz – Second by Janis Julian – All in favor – None opposed.**

Cityfest (Art on the Town): Panel recommended not funding until Division can find out who is managing the program, then they can apply for a special project grant for marketing. - **Tina Betz abstained – Motion to not approve funding by Michael Quattrociocchi – Second by David Fleming – All in favor – None opposed.**

Cityfest (Wilmington Children's Chorus: **Tina Betz abstained – Motion to approve funding recommendations by Cheryle Pringle - Second by Janis Julian – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Motion by David Fleming to approve funding recommendations for all other Project Support applications – Second by Tina Betz - All in favor – None Opposed.**

#### Arts Stabilization Fund (ASF) Grants Funding Approval

ASF is funded outside of the DDOA budget by money drawn from the ARTCO fund annually, which is the endowment Delaware Community Foundation manages for capital facilities-related expenses. Eight organizations can't apply for ASF through DDOA because they are ARTCO members and receive direct funding annually from ARTCO. DDOA draws funding annually for all of the other arts organizations that own their buildings or have a long-term lease.

The panel recommended funding all projects, with highest percentage of request to those above 3.0 ("Meets expectations") or higher.

Kent County Theatre Guild: **John Muller abstained – Motion to approve funding recommendations by Janis Julian – Second by Donna Blakey – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Motion by Cheryle Pringle to approve funding recommendations for all other Arts Stabilization Fund applications – Second by Tina Betz - All in favor – None opposed.**

#### Education Resource (EDR) Grants Funding Approval

The Education Resource (EDR) panel has become incredibly rigorous. With the relatively new adopted Delaware standards and performance indicators, education people on the panel held organizations accountable to making the case for their education programming.

The panel's discussion centered around whether or not the standards should be a determining factor for all the other parts on the evaluation and different members of the panel handled that differently. Panelists all agreed that program evaluation is an area that they all seem to need help in because the standards issue is driving some not to be recommended for funding.

In taking a look at the NEA guidelines for EDR, Division staff realized that the guidelines are more rigorous, and it's causing staff to question whether its expectations are realistic. The organizations recommended for funding aren't doing anything differently in how they do their art, teaching, and education, but they've learned to articulate it in a way schools that can embrace. It was suggested to DOE that a workshop be added focusing on evaluation & assessment and how to do that.

Due to total requests exceeding available funds, the panel recommended not funding applications that scored below 3.0 (meets expectations).

**Motion by David Fleming to approve funding recommendations for Education Resource applications – Second by Cheryle Pringle – All in favor – None opposed.**

#### **Start Up Grants Funding Approval**

This year the Division received two applications for Start Up grants:

- Arianna Alliance - based in Wilmington centered around St. Anthony's Italian Community (but not exclusive)
- Dewey Artist Collaborative – a collection of artists who do programming in the community providing workshops – serving mainly emerging artists

**Motion to approve funding recommendations for Start Up applications by Donna Blakey – Second by Michael Quattrociocchi – All in favor – None opposed.**

#### **Mezzanine Gallery Panel Presentation – Roxanne Stanulis**

Roxanne Stanulis presented the results of the Gallery Panel's review of entries for 2019. The Division sponsors exhibits 11 months of the year in the Mezzanine Gallery (no exhibit in January). The exhibits are one-person shows, all Delaware artists. The artists get to exhibit by being a fellowship winner or by being chosen by the gallery panel that meets once a year. Usually the fellowship winners choose to have exhibitions during the months of September thru December and sometimes into February. The rest of the year is filled with visual images registry winners. All of the artists in the Division's visual images registry are reviewed and ranked by the gallery panel.

#### **General Operating Support (GOS) Grants Approval**

Division staff provided three spreadsheets for GOS divided by those reviewed by full panel/full applications, the interim year groups reviewed in house, and the Arts Trust group. From the YPTC financial report, staff calculated the rolling average for the last three years and based the grant award on that.

#### **GOS Full Applications – Panel Review**

Light Up the Queen Foundation: **Tina Betz abstained – Motion to approve funding recommendation by Janis Julian – Second by Michael Kalmbach – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Motion by Cheryle Pringle to approve funding recommendations for all other GOS Full applications – Second by David Fleming – All in favor – None opposed.**

#### **GOS Arts Trust Fund**

**Motion by Tina Betz to approve funding recommendations for GOS Arts Trust Fund - Second by Cheryle Pringle - All in favor – None opposed.**

#### **GOS Interim Applications – In-House Review**

**Kent County Theatre Guild: John Muller abstained - Motion by David Fleming to approve recommended funding – Second by Cheryle Pringle – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Misphillion Art League: Michael Quattrociocchi abstained – Motion by Cheryle Pringle to approve funding recommendations – Second by Janis Julian – All in favor – None opposed.**

Dover Art League: **John Muller abstained - Motion by Cheryle Pringle to approve funding conditional on satisfactory report by DDOA and if it's not, then money will remain within Kent County – Second by Janis Julian – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Motion by Cheryle Pringle to approve funding recommendations for remaining GOS Interim – Second by Janis Julian – All in favor – None opposed.**

Paul asked that council members not discuss any decisions until the Division notifies grantees of their awards.

Mack Wathen and Paul Weagraff recognized Lori Crawford for her service on the DE State Arts Council.

**Old Business - None**

#### **New Business**

Leeann Wallett is spearheading working with a vendor on branding [DelawareScene](#) and the Delaware State of the Arts podcasts and integrating all of that into the Division's promotional and marketing activities.

Delaware Business Times is doing an article in early July on the resurgence of the use of podcasts. The Division has been doing them since 2005 with News Radio 1450 WILM – State of the Arts radio show. They've reached out to the Division because there aren't too many state agencies that do podcasts.

NASAA presented a brief article on the Division's Writers Retreat and its supports of literary artists with the Division's biennial retreat.

**Public Comment - None**

**Motion and second to adjourn meeting at 12 pm - All in favor – None opposed.**

**Lunch**